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BC Stats

# Infoline

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- **Building permits slip 2.9% in June**
- **Lotteries popular with British Columbians; 83% of adults played in 2006/07**
- **Imported beers gaining ground in BC**

## The Economy

- **The value of building permits issued by BC municipalities retreated (-2.9%, *seasonally adjusted*) in June after surging in the previous month.** Residential permits declined (-12.6%), while increases in the industrial (+93.3%), institutional (+22.2%) and commercial (+12.7%) sectors pushed planned spending on non-residential projects up 18.5%.

  In Kelowna, permits soared 32.3%, while Victoria (+7.7%) experienced a more moderate increase. On the other hand, Vancouver (-4.8%) and Abbotsford (-43.8%) saw the value of permits slip. Nationally, permits inched down 0.4%. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **Restaurant, caterer and tavern receipts in BC were up 0.8% (*seasonally adjusted*) in May.** Drinking places took in more revenues (+0.7%), as did food service establishments (+0.8%). Canadian establishments also saw receipts climb (+0.9%) as revenues were up at both food services (+1.0%) and drinking places (+0.2%).
  *Data Source: Statistics Canada & BC Stats*

## Gambling

- **In the 2006/2007 fiscal year, approximately 83% of British Columbians aged 19 or older played a lottery, 30% visited a BC casino and 8% visited a provincial commercial bingo hall.**

  In terms of player characteristics, 52% were female and most (73%) were aged 35 or older. About half (48%) were from households with annual incomes of $60,000 or greater, and nearly three quarters (70%) were educated at the post-secondary level.

The British Columbia Lottery Corporation (BCLC) generated $2.4 billion in revenue from the province's casinos, lotteries and bingo halls in 2006/07. From this revenue, approximately $650 million was paid out to lottery and bingo winners, and a further $812 million went to commissions & service fees, taxes and other operating-related expenses. Of the remaining net income (just over $1 billion), most went to the provincial government, with more than half going into consolidated revenue ($621 million). Charitable & community organizations received $142 million.
*Data Source: British Columbia Lottery Corporation*

## Liquor Sales

- **Imported beers continue to gain an increasingly strong toehold in the BC beer market.** During the twelve-month period ending in June, the BC Liquor Distribution Branch sold over 39 million litres of imported beer, an increase of 18.3% over the previous year. Imported beer accounted for over 14% of total beer sales during the twelve-moth period. Sales of imported beer have been increasing steadily, while sales of domestic beer have shown more volatility.

  With almost 75% of the total market share, beer is by far the most popular product sold at liquor stores. Wine (13%), spirits (7%), and refreshments (6%) such as ciders and coolers account for smaller shares of the total volume sold. However, wine sales have been increasing. Total sales in litres of wine increased by 7.6% during the twelve-month period ending in June Unlike beer, domestic and imported wines are relatively equal in popularity, though sales of imported wines (+10.4%) in-

**Report** | **The Characteristics of the Migration Flows for BC's Census Metropolitan Areas**

**Did you know...**

**Compared to other Canadians, British Columbians are avid movie-goers. They made an average 3.6 visits to the movies in 2005, the second highest rate in the country.**

*Source: Statistics Canada*

creased more substantially in 2006/07 than did those of domestic wines (+4.7%).

*Data Source: BC Liquor Distribution Branch*

## Port Activity

- **The Port of Vancouver handled 38.9 million tonnes of cargo in the first six months of 2005, making it by far the busiest port in the country.** Total tonnage handled by the port was up a solid 4.4% from the same period of 2004, while overall activity at Canadian ports increased at a more modest rate (+0.4%). Much of the growth at Vancouver's port was the result of higher outbound shipments of coal to Europe and crude petroleum to the US. Nearly a fifth of the 213.6 million tonnes of cargo entering or leaving Canada by ship last year passed through Vancouver's port.

  North Arm Fraser River, Canada's 17th busiest port, also saw cargo volume climb 4.4%. Other major BC ports were not as busy. The volume of cargo handled at Fraser River (ranked 9th) dropped 7.6% during the first six months of 2005, and volume was down 1.4% at Howe Sound (14th). Cargo volume at Prince Rupert, which was ranked 19th among Canadian ports, continued to slip (-15.5%). *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

## Tourism

- **Canadian hotel operators surveyed in July are less optimistic about their prospects than they were earlier in the year.** Nearly a quarter (23%) expect occupancy rates to rise during the peak summer months, but more (27%) are anticipating declines. Forty-five percent of hoteliers expect to see an increase in room rates between July and September, more than double the 18% who think they will drop. Opinions are fairly evenly divided between those expecting an increase (18%) and those anticipating a decline (20%) in corporate and commercial travel. However, most (61%) hoteliers foresee no change.

  While 20% did not report any difficulties in the second quarter, the obstacles most frequently cited by those who had concerns were exchange rate fluctuations (38%), a shortage of skilled (30%) or unskilled (34%) labour, and general economic conditions (19%). Twenty-three percent said a lack of attractions or complementary facilities in the vicinity was a problem, while 10% were expecting to experience abnormal weather or natural disasters. A similar percentage felt that Canada's reputation as a desired tourist destination was a likely business impediment. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

## The Nation

- **The Canadian economy picked up speed in May, growing 0.3% *(seasonally adjusted)* in May after stalling in the previous month.** The improvement was driven by an upswing (+0.5%) in the service sector, where virtually every industry posted gains in May. Retail (+2.5%) and wholesale (+1.4%) trade recorded particularly strong growth, while increases in other service industries were more moderate (ranging from +0.2% in public administration and other services to +0.6% in arts, entertainment & recreation). However, the goods sector did not fare as well. Overall GDP was down 0.1%, as mining, oil & gas extraction (-1.6%) and agriculture, forestry & fishing (-1.3%) both slipped. However, manufacturing (+0.3%) rebounded from a downturn in April.

  *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **Canadian manufacturers' prices were 2.2% higher this June than in the same month last year.** Rising prices for primary metals (+9.9%) and chemicals (+6.2%) offset declines in the price of petroleum & coal products (-0.7%), lumber (-2.1%), and motor vehicles & other transportation equipment (-2.7%). The appreciation of the Canadian dollar has played a large role in driving producer prices down, since many Canadian commodities are sold in international markets. Excluding the exchange rate effect, producer prices would have risen 3.4%. BC softwood lumber prices continued to fall (-5.6%) with interior (-8.9%) producers receiving substantially less for their products than in June of last year. However, prices were up at coastal mills (+2.9%) and prices for BC pulpwood chips were notably higher (+53.2%).

  *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

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# The Characteristics of the Migration Flows for B.C.'s Census Metropolitan Areas

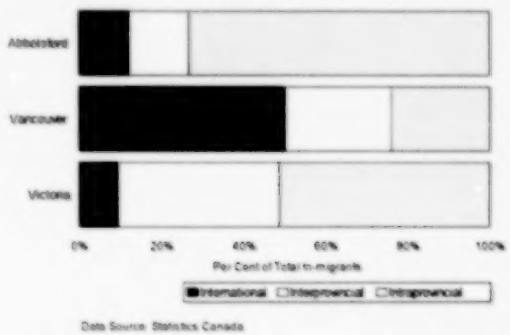
Together, British Columbia's three Census Metropolitan Areas accounted for the majority of British Columbia's population in 2005[1]. Vancouver CMA, Victoria CMA and Abbotsford CMA held 63.5 per cent of all of B.C.'s July 1st 2005 population. These CMAs also experienced some of the largest migration flows for the province. This special feature article discusses the characteristics of the migration flows of British Columbia's Census Metropolitan areas, using the most recently released revised population component estimates (July 1st 2004 to June 30th 2005) from Statistics Canada[2].

**The majority of Vancouver CMA's in-migrants arrived from international sources over the 2004-2005 period.**

The composition of total in-migration for each of British Columbia's CMAs differs by area of origin. Over the 2004-2005 period, the majority of Vancouver's in-migrants arrived from international areas[3]. A total of 50 per cent of in-migrants to this CMA arrived from areas external to Canada in this year. Inter-provincial and intra-provincial migration also held sizable shares of total in-migration. Over the 2004-2005 period, 26 per cent of in-migrants to the Vancouver CMA arrived from other provinces, while 24 per cent of in-migrants arrived from other areas within B.C.

For both Abbotsford and Victoria CMAs international in-migration accounted for a smaller share of total in-migrants. Over the July 1st 2004 to June 31st 2005 period 12 per cent of in-migrants to Abbotsford arrived from areas outside of Canada. For Victoria CMA, 9 per cent of total in-migrants arrived from international sources.

Intra-provincial migration accounted for the largest share of total in-migrants to Victoria and Abbotsford CMAs in 2004-2005




Data Source: Statistics Canada

Compared to Vancouver, inter-provincial in-migration held a somewhat larger share of the total in-flow for these two CMAs in aggregate. Over 39 per cent of Victoria CMA's 2004 - 2005 total in-migrants were from other provinces, while 14 per cent of Abbotsford CMA's in-migrants came from these areas.

Intra-provincial migrants have held the largest share of total in-migrants for Abbotsford CMA and Victoria CMA..

Intra-provincial in-migration accounted for the largest share of total 2004-2005 in-migrants to each of these urban areas. Over the 2004-2005 period, 73 per cent of Abbotsford's in-migrants arrived from other areas

1 Kelowna was also designated a CMA in the 2006 Census. Beginning in 2008 the population component data for this CMA will also be available.
2 Preliminary July 1st 2005 to June 30th 2006 estimates are also available. However, the data used to generate these estimates differs from that of the revised estimates. Therefore these estimates are not strictly comparable to other year's data.
3 International in-migrants include immigrants and net non-permanent residents.

within B.C. Over the same period, over 51 per cent of Victoria's in-migrants also came from intra-provincial sources.

**The majority of 2004–2005 out-migrants from each of the CMAs were also destined for other areas within B.C. ..**

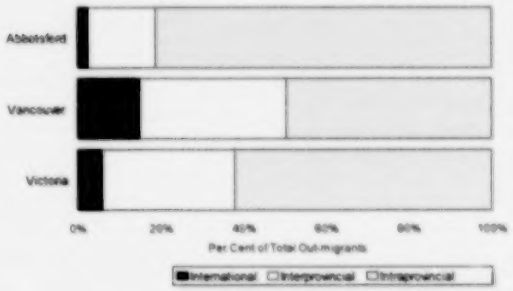
Intra-provincial migration accounted for the largest per cent of total (2004–2005) out-flows for all CMAs. A total of 81 per cent of out-migrants from Abbotsford, 50 per cent of out-migrants from Vancouver and 62 per cent of out-migrants from Victoria CMA located to other areas within B.C. over this period.

Inter-provincial migration held the second highest shares of total out-migration for all CMAs. Over 16 per cent of Abbotsford's out-migrants that left between July 1st 2004 and June 31st 2005, located to other provinces. A total of 35 per cent of Vancouver CMA's and 32 per cent of Victoria CMA's out-migrants also moved out of the province in the same period.

Finally, estimated international out-migration accounted for a significant share of total out-migrants for Vancouver CMA only[4]. A total of 15 per cent of estimated total out-migrants from this CMA were destined for areas outside B.C. over the 2004–2005 period.

As a single source or destination for all B.C. migrants, Vancouver CMA figured prominently.

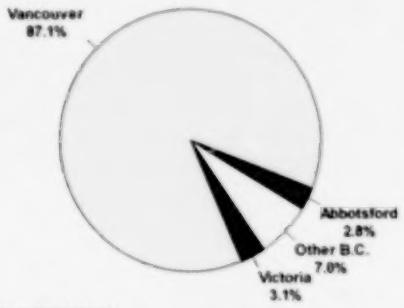
Intra-provincial migration accounted for the largest share of total out-migration from all CMAs in 2004-2005




Data Source: Statistics Canada

**Vancouver CMA received the highest share of all international in-migrants to B.C. over the 2004–2005 period...**

Vancouver CMA was the most popular destination for B.C. international in-migrants in 2004-2005



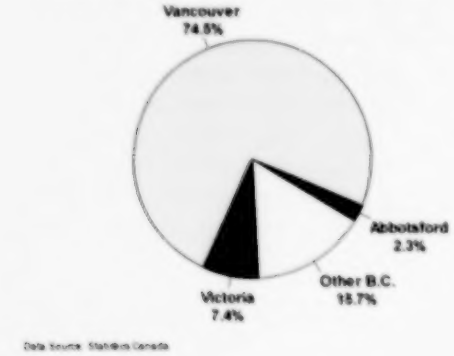

Data Source: Statistics Canada

Vancouver CMA received a majority of 87.1 per cent of all international in-migrants to B.C. over the 2004 to 2005 period. Abbotsford CMA received 2.8 per cent of total B.C. international in-migrants and Victoria CMA 3.1 per cent of the total over the same period. All other areas within B.C. combined received 7 per cent of the estimated 46,111 international immigrants and net non-permanent residents that arrived to B.C. within this period.

4 International out-migrants include estimates of emigrants, returning emigrants and net temporary abroad.

**Vancouver CMA was the single most popular destination and source area for inter-provincial migrants...**

The majority of international outmigrants were from the Vancouver CMA in 2004-2005.

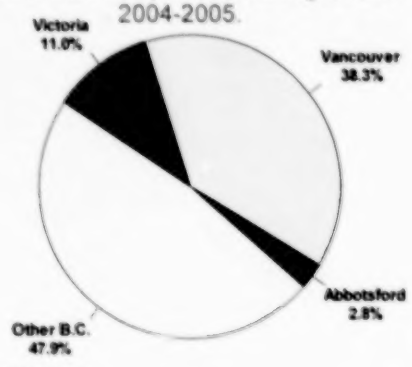



Data Source: Statistics Canada

Vancouver CMA was the most favoured single destination for inter-provincial in-migrants in 2004-2005. This CMA received 38.3 per cent of all inter-provincial in-migrants that arrived over this period. Victoria CMA was also a popular destination and received 11 per cent of B.C.'s total inter-provincial in-migrants. A total of 2.8 per cent of the total inter-provincial inflow settled within the Abbotsford CMA over this period.

Vancouver CMA was also the leading single source of inter-provincial out migrants between July 1st 2004 and June 31st 2005. Of the estimated 46,066 B.C. total inter-provincial out migrants for this period, 38.7 per cent left from Vancouver CMA. Victoria CMA accounted for 11 per cent of total inter-provincial out-migration, while Abbotsford accounted for 2.8 per cent of the total.

Vancouver CMA was the leading single destination for interprovincial in-migrants in 2004-2005.




Data Source: Statistics Canada

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fax transmission information service from BC Stats

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also on the Internet at www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca


## BC at a glance . . .

| POPULATION (thousands) | Apr 1/07 | % change on one year ago |
|---|---|---|
| BC | 4,352.8 | 1.3 |
| Canada | 32,852.8 | 1.0 |
| **GDP and INCOME (Released Apr 25)** | | |
| *(BC - at market prices)* | 2006 | % change on one year ago |
| Gross Domestic Product (GDP) *($ millions)* | 179,701 | 6.4 |
| GDP *($ 1997 millions)* | 150,741 | 3.6 |
| GDP *($ 1997 per Capita)* | 34,971 | 2.3 |
| Personal Disposable Income *($ 1997 per Capita)* | 21,984 | 4.8 |
| **TRADE ($ millions, seasonally adjusted)** | | % change on prev. month |
| Manufacturing Shipments - May | 3,500 | -2.2 |
| Merchandise Exports - May | 2,807 | -6.2 |
| Retail Sales - May | 4,752 | 1.7 |
| **CONSUMER PRICE INDEX** | % change on one year ago | 12-month avg % change |
| *(all items - Jun 2007)* | | |
| BC | 1.5 | 1.8 |
| Vancouver | 1.9 | 2.2 |
| Victoria | 0.8 | 1.4 |
| Canada | 2.2 | 1.8 |
| **LABOUR FORCE (thousands)** | Jun '07 | % change on prev. month |
| *(seasonally adjusted)* | | |
| Labour Force - BC | 2,365 | 0.1 |
| Employed - BC | 2,260 | -0.1 |
| Unemployed - BC | 105 | 5.9 |
| | | May '07 |
| Unemployment Rate - BC *(percent)* | 4.4 | 4.2 |
| Unemployment Rate - Canada *(percent)* | 6.1 | 6.1 |
| **INTEREST RATES (percent)** | Aug 1/07 | Aug 2/06 |
| Prime Business Rate | 6.25 | 6.00 |
| Conventional Mortgages - 1 year | 7.05 | 6.60 |
| - 5 year | 7.24 | 6.95 |
| **US/CANADA EXCHANGE RATE** | Aug 1/07 | Aug 2/06 |
| *(avg. noon spot rate)* Cdn $ | 1.0569 | 1.1259 |
| US $ *(reciprocal of the closing rate)* | 0.9456 | 0.8873 |
| **AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE RATE** | Jun '07 | % change on one year ago |
| *(industrial aggregate - dollars)* | | |
| BC | 740.27 | 2.4 |
| Canada | 749.92 | 3.2 |

**SOURCES:**

Population, Gross Domestic Product, Trade, Prices, Labour Force, Wage Rate } Statistics Canada

Interest Rates, Exchange Rates: Bank of Canada Weekly Financial Statistics

For latest Weekly Financial Statistics see www.bankofcanada.ca

## Regional Employment Projections

BC Stats, with the financial assistance of the Ministry of Advanced Education, developed the Regional Employment Projection Model (REPM), designed to project industrial and occupational employment in regions of the Province of British Columbia. The model projects employment at the Regional District level and then aggregates back up to the College Region for reporting purposes.

www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/lss/repm.asp

## Socio-Economic Profiles & Indices

The 2006 edition of these widely-monitored reports provide the most complete and up-to-date basis for measuring and comparing the social and economic dimensions of regions in the province. Released April 4.

www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/sep/index.asp

## High Technology Sector – 2006

The high technology sector is a growing part of British Columbia's diverse economy, offering the prospect of strong economic growth in the years to come, as well as a local source of technology inputs to the province's resource-based industries.

Our latest *Profile* and *Input Indicators* reports are now available.

www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/bus_stat/busind/hi_tech.asp

### Released this week by BC Stats

- No subscription releases

**Next week**

- Tourism Sector Monitor, July 2007
- Quarterly Regional Statistics, 2nd Quarter 2007
- Labour Force Statistics, July 2007
- Earnings & Employment Trends, July 2007


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